APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 108 asked by Sri K. Sattanatha Karayalar (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 15th July 1957, page 447 supra.]

The activities of the Fisheries Department are directed mainly towards the improvement of the lot of fishermen by socio-economic measures and the development of fisheries wealth of the State. The Government have taken the following measures to provide amenities to fishermen :—

(1) *Fishermen co-operative societies.*—(*a*) Fishermen co-operative societies have been organized all over the State. There are 150 such societies in the State including those in Kanyakumari district. The department has helped the formation of these societies and rendered to them all assistance, particularly in the matter of getting financial help from the District Central Co-operative Bank and increasing their share capital. Under the Second Five-Year Plan the Government sanctioned a scheme for the grant of long-term loans to fishermen with a view to relieving their indebtedness and providing them with crafts and tackles. During 1956–57 a loan of Rs. 2·70 lakhs was disbursed to 25 fishermen co-operative societies in five centres and nearly 900 fishermen were benefited by the loans. District Fishermen Co-operative Federations have also been started in Madras, Tanjore, Ramanathapuram, Tuticorin and Kanyakumari. The free services of a Senior Inspector of Co-operative Societies has been sanctioned to each of these federations. The federations have been granted a share capital of Rs. 2,000 each to enhance their working capital. The Government have also sanctioned a Co-operative Sub-Registrar, 8 Senior Inspectors and 15 Junior Inspectors for the supervision of the fishermen co-operative societies.

(*b*) *Hiring of power boats and motor vans.*—The department has supplied mechanised boats and nylon nets, which are becoming increasingly popular with fishermen for deep-sea fishing, to various fishermen co-operative societies on 75 per cent loan and 25 per cent subsidy under hire-purchase system. Government transport vans for transport of fish are also hired to the societies at cheap rates for transporting fish to Madras markets.

(*c*) *Fish markets.*—Some of the fish markets are run by fishermen co-operative societies with Government's assistance. There is a scheme to grant subsidies to local bodies and fishermen co-operative societies for improvements or remodelling of fish markets.

(2) *Supply of Pablo type mechanised fishing boats to fishermen.*—The Government have so far constructed 27 Pablo type mechanised fishing boats designed by a F.A.O. Naval Architect.

15th July 1957]

These boats are being sold to groups of fishermen through fishermen co-operative societies, allowing a subsidy of 25 per cent on cost of hulls and 50 per cent on cost of engines. Progressive efforts are being made by the department to develop mechanised fishing and thereby assist the fisherfolk to cover a wider field of operation and obtain better catches.

(3) *Housing for fishermen.*—The Fisheries Department is not directly concerned with housing as such but it has an interest as the welfare of fishermen depends on it. Under the Harijan Welfare Schemes a provision of Rs. 2·45 lakhs has been sanctioned for construction of houses. For the first year of the Plan period the Government have sanctioned the construction of 102 houses at a cost of Rs. 500 each in South Madras and in Kasikoil Kuppam in Chingleput district.

In the Madras City there is sea erosion near Rayapuram. With a view to permanently rehabilitate the fishermen who were rendered homeless by sea erosion, north of Madras Harbour the Government sanctioned a scheme by acquisition of land and provision of amenities to them at a total cost of Rs. 4,14,500 with adequate provision for sites and other amenities for about 282 fishermen families. The Government have also sanctioned recently a sum of Rs. 1,61,250 for acquisition of private sites near Tondiarpet to provide alternative accommodation to about 258 fishermen families evicted from the lands belonging to the Defence Department on which the fishermen had encroached.

(4) *Schools.*—Since the inception of the Fisheries Department considerable attention has been paid to the education of the children of the fisherfolk. There are three Fishery schools in the State run by the Department and the remaining schools are run by District Boards and others. In addition to the usual curriculum attention is paid to subjects like elementary navigation, boat building, net-making and the study of the life-history of important fishes. Two training schools have also been started one at Tuticorin and the other at Madras for the training of fishermen in navigation, driving of motor boats.

(5) *Roads.*—The Fisheries Department has conducted a survey of all the Kuppams in the State. A new road laid from Lattice Bridge to Mahabalipuram is found useful for the quick transport of fish from Sadras to Madras. A coastal road has also been laid from Tuticorin to Cape Comorin.

(6) *Distress relief.*—The department has always been helping the fishermen in times of distress. Emergency relief works have been undertaken during cyclones, floods and fire havoc in villages. A scheme for granting relief to fishermen or their families in case of accidents or deaths while carrying on their profession has been initiated. Large quantities of milk powder, ghee, cotton seed oil, etc., received through 'Care' gift, the Guild of Services, etc., have been distributed to fishermen through

[15th July 1957

fisheries co-operative societies.. Various schemes for the betterment of fishermen, like community halls with radio sets, reading rooms, wells, parks, playgrounds for children, etc., have been provided by the Collectors of districts under the National Extension and Community Development Projects.

(7) *Fisheries Advisory Council.*—A State Council called the Madras State Fisheries Advisory Council has been recently constituted for advising the Government on matters of fishery and on the effective implementation of the schemes included in the Second Five-Year Plan. Both inland and marine fishermen are represented in the Council.

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TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS